



MEDIA RELEASE

STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS UP IN NOVEMBER MORE TENNESSEE CHILDREN RECEIVING SUPPORT

NASHVILLE, Tenn.— The Tennessee Department of Human Services collected one million more dollars in child support in November of this year than in November 2002. More than \$27.8 million was collected for Tennessee children versus \$26.3 million from the same period last year.

DHS has increased child support collections so far this state fiscal year by 12.24% over last state fiscal year. From July 2003 through November 2003, more than \$157 million in child support payments were collected. During that same period last year, \$140 million in payments were collected.

Collections have been increasing steadily for several years. DHS attributes the increase in collections in large part to enforcement tools, such as administrative wage assignments, liens, license revocation, tax intercept, modification of support orders and passport denials.

The number of child support cases with orders is also on the rise. Without orders, there would be no child support payment. This figure is up 3.25% in November of this year, over November 2002. There are currently 217,850 cases with support orders. DHS is working to establish orders for those children without existing orders. Identifying and finding the missing parent and establishing paternity are keys to establishing orders.

For more information on the Child Support Program, visit the DHS website at:
<http://www.state.tn.us/humanserv/child-support.htm>

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